(c) The details of the US proposal to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan are yet not known and the proposal is yet to be approved by the US Congress.

On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary of Defence conveyed that US companies have received approval from the US Administration to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft. No decision has been made in this matter. Government will take decisions on defence related matters based on India's national interest.

Indian Delegation to Angola and Nigeria

3158. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of senior officials of his Ministry visited Angola and Nigeria so as to firm up ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit; country wise; and

(c) the broad details of the talks held by the delegation with its counterpart and the outcome thereof, country wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Purpose of the visit was to hold bilateral consultations on issues of mutual interest.

(c) i. In Nigeria, discussions were primarily held on co-operation in the Petroleum Sector. Discussions were also held with the Foreign Office on various bilateral issues and measures to strengthen economic cooperation. Views were exchanged with regard to reform of the UN Security Council. India was assured of Nigeria's desire to strengthen co-operation with India on all the above areas.

ii. In Angola, discussions were primarily held on co-operation in the Petroleum Sector. Discussions were also held with the Foreign Office on various bilateral issues and measures to strengthen economic co-operation. Views were exchanged with regard to reform of the UN Security Council. India was assured of Angola's desire to strengthen co-operation with India on all the issues. An agreement to rehabilitate a railway line in angola was signed.